

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 111325-9 (070100)

Application No.: 09/534,756

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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 19-20, 22-26, and 30-31 are pending in the present application, with claims 1-4, 6, 9, 13, 24, and 30 amended, and with claims 5, 15-18, 21, 27-29, and 32-34 cancelled. No new matter is introduced (see, e.g., claims 5, 17, 29, and 34, as originally filed).

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the personal interview conducted on November 3, 2004. During the interview, Applicants' representatives discussed submitting a Supplemental Amendment, as submitted herewith, placing the case in condition for allowance based on the allowable subject matter. In addition, the Examiner brought to Applicants' attention *Maillard et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,286,103, and International Application Publication No. WO 99/18729, and which Applicants request the Examiner to make of record in the present case.

Accordingly, the present amendment amends independent claims 1, 13, 24, and 30 to include the allowable subject matter from claims 5, 17, 29, and 34, cancels claims 5, 15-18, 21, 27-29, and 32-34, and amends claims 2-4, 6, and 9 to depend from allowed independent claim 11, placing the present case in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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